

Claims:

1. A Bluetooth serial adapter comprising a Bluetooth connection module
for conducting Bluetooth communication with another Bluetooth enabled
5 device, a serial connector allowing connection of a serial cable between the
adapter and a device having a serial port, and a serial to Bluetooth interface
arranged for:
receiving serial connection control commands input via the serial connector;
mapping received serial connection control commands to Bluetooth connection
10 control events; and
outputting the so determined Bluetooth connection control events to the
Bluetooth connection module.
2. A Bluetooth serial adapter according to claim 1 in which the serial to
15 Bluetooth interface arranged for:
receiving Bluetooth connection control events from the Bluetooth connection
module;
mapping received Bluetooth connection control events to serial connection
control commands; and
20 outputting the so determined serial connection control commands to the serial
connector for onward transmission to a device having a serial port.

3. A Bluetooth serial adapter according to claim 1 or claim 2 in which the set of serial connection control commands is smaller than the array of events provided in Bluetooth.

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4. A Bluetooth serial adapter according to claim 3 in which each serial connection control command is mapped to a corresponding Bluetooth event but there is at least one Bluetooth event that has no corresponding serial connection control command.

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5. A Bluetooth serial adapter according to any preceding claim in which the serial connection control commands comprise a command set having commands which are one of: analogous to, directly related to, and substantially identical to, commands used in an industry standard command set used in controlling Modem connections.

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6. A Bluetooth serial adapter according to any preceding claim in which the serial connection control commands comprise a set of AT commands.

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7. A Bluetooth serial adapter according to any preceding claim in which the serial connection control commands comprise one of: the set of

commands, or a subset of the commands, mentioned and explained in section 3.2 of Annex 1 to the description of this application.

8. A Bluetooth serial adapter according to any preceding claim in which
5 the Bluetooth connection module comprises a Bluetooth chip carrying a programmable virtual machine programmed to act as the serial to Bluetooth interface.
9. A Bluetooth serial adapter comprising a Bluetooth connection module
10 for conducting Bluetooth communication with another Bluetooth enabled device, a serial connector allowing connection of a serial cable between the adapter and a device having a serial port, and a serial to Bluetooth interface arranged for:
- receiving Bluetooth connection control events from the Bluetooth connection
15 module;
- mapping received Bluetooth connection control events to serial connection control commands; and
- outputting the so determined serial connection control commands to the serial connector for onward transmission to a device having a serial port.
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10. A method of communicating via a Bluetooth connection using a device

with a serial port, comprising the step of using a Bluetooth serial adapter comprising a Bluetooth connection module for conducting Bluetooth communication with another Bluetooth enabled device, a serial connector connected via a serial cable to the device having a serial port, and a serial to Bluetooth interface, the method further comprising the serial to Bluetooth interface carrying out the steps of:

receiving serial connection control commands from the device via the serial cable;

mapping received serial connection control commands to Bluetooth connection control events; and

outputting the so determined Bluetooth connection control events to the Bluetooth connection module.

11. A method of communicating via a Bluetooth connection using a device with a serial port, comprising the step of using a Bluetooth serial adapter comprising a Bluetooth connection module for conducting Bluetooth communication with another Bluetooth enabled device, a serial connector connected via a serial cable to the device having a serial port, and a serial to Bluetooth interface, the method further comprising the serial to Bluetooth interface carrying out the steps of:

receiving Bluetooth connection control events from the Bluetooth connection

module;

mapping received Bluetooth connection control events to serial connection control commands; and

outputting the so determined serial connection control commands via the serial

5 cable to the device having a serial port.

12. A virtual serial connection system between two devices each of which has a serial port, the system comprising a pair of Bluetooth serial adapters according to any one of claims 1 to 9, one of the adapters being connected to a
10 first of the devices via a first serial cable and the other of the adapters being connected to the second of the devices via a second serial cable, wherein the virtual serial connection is completed by Bluetooth communication between the two Bluetooth serial adapters.

15 13. A computer program comprising code portions which when loaded and run on computer cause the computer to carry out a method according to claim 10 or claim 11 and/or to function as a serial to Bluetooth interface.

14. A computer readable data carrier such as a signal or a record medium
20 for example RAM, ROM, EEPROM, a floppy disk, a hard disk, or a CD-ROM carrying a computer program according to claim 13.